

South Dakota

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

News Release

March 31, 2003

CORN AND SPRING WHEAT ACRES EXPECTED TO DECLINE

SIOUX FALLS, March 31, 2003—Producers in South Dakota intend to plant 100,000 fewer acres of corn and 300,000 fewer acres of spring wheat this year, while soybeans are intended to remain at the same acreage as last year, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Acreage is also expected to decrease for sunflowers, dry edible beans and durum wheat, while sorghum, oats and all hay (harvested) intentions are up from last year. Any planting changes due to weather or other factors will be accounted for when actual plantings are obtained in early June.

Corn plantings are expected to be 4.30 million acres, down 2 percent from 2002. Producers plan to plant 72 percent of these acres to biotechnology corn varieties. Producers intend to plant 35 percent of the acres to insect resistant (Bt) varieties, up from 33 percent last year. Herbicide resistant varieties are expected to be used on 23 percent of the acres, the same percentage as in 2002, while stacked gene varieties will account for 14 percent of the acres, versus 10 percent a year earlier.

Soybean plantings are expected to total 4.25 million acres, the same level as last year. Intentions are for seeding biotechnology soybean varieties on 90 percent of the acres, compared to 89 percent last year.

Sunflower acreage is expected to total 570,000 acres, down 11 percent from last year. **Oil sunflowers** will account for 530,000 acres, down 1 percent from 2002. **Non-oil sunflowers** account for 40,000 acres, down 62 percent from 2002.

Sorghum planted acreage is expected to total 290,000 acres, up 32 percent from last year.

Winter wheat acres seeded last fall totaled 1.50 million acres, up 15 percent from a year earlier.

Other spring wheat seeding intentions are at 1.40 million acres, down 18 percent from 2002.

Durum wheat seeding intentions, at 15,000 acres, are down 50 percent from last year.

Oats to be seeded, estimated at 480,000 acres, are up 7 percent from 2002.

Barley seedings, estimated at 80,000 acres, are unchanged from 2002.

Dry edible bean planting intentions, estimated at 17,000 acres, are down 19 percent from last year.

All hay harvested acreage is estimated at 4.30 million acres, up 8 percent from last year.

*For more information contact
Carter Anderson or Steve Noyes at
605-330-4235*